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Councillors defend spending on rec and culture institutions

JENN WATT
Editor

Much time and energy was spent during Dysart et al's budget meeting Thursday discussing the philosophy behind spending decisions, namely what institutions should receive tax dollars and to what extent.

The meeting, which began at 9 a.m. and finished after 4 p.m. on Feb. 14, included spending discussions from all departments as councillors looked for ways to reduce the tax increase for the coming year. Recommendations generated at the meeting will be taken into account at the next budget meeting in March.

The first draft, presented by treasurer Barbara Swannell, showed a 7.35 per cent increase on the levy, which is likely to change by the time the final budget is approved.

"Right now, the budget you have in front of you is looking at a 7.35 per cent increase on the levy. ... If you own a residence, you're going to be looking at [an additional] \$19.52 on \$100,000 [assessment]," Swannell said.

The county and education portions of the tax bill have not yet been set.

see COUNCILLORS page 5



Icy resolve

Dysart Mayor Andrea Roberts leads a group of township staff and children into the water during the annual Lions Club Polar Bear Challenge at the Frost Festival held on Saturday, Feb. 16 at Head Lake Park in Haliburton. The challenge raised \$3,146 for Sick Kids Hospital and \$4,047 for Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation. More on page 4./DARREN LUM Staff

Wild weather week puts plans on hold

SUE TIFFIN

Staff Reporter

A Family Day weekend with moderate temperatures, no winter weather warnings, blue skies and what has been identified as being sunshine brought residents out of their homes and kept businesses busy after intense winter weather caused cancellations, closures and delays just the week before.

Scott Moore, a widely-followed ama-

teur meteorologist in Minden who tracks storms and posts daily weather reports online that are specific to this area reported forecasts during last week's messy conditions.

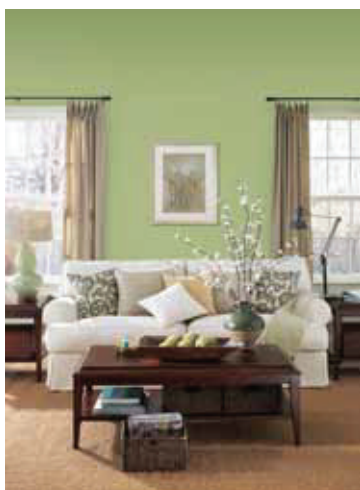
"In comparison to last year, the 2.5 to three feet of snow that we got over the last seven days was huge," he said. "Winds have certainly been a factor this year compared to last, and the systems that have been in play this year were skirting below us and through the bottom of the province. We seemed to have some colder

overnight temps last year, but our wind chills have more than made up for it."

Moore said that because ice coverage on the Great Lakes is marginally lower this year compared to last, a few more lake effect snow squalls have been recorded.

"The track of many of the systems hitting the province have veered more north than the usual patterns for this time of year which has brought us a lot more mixing of snow and rain or freezing rain."

see MOTHER page 3



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Reducing single use plastics in Dysart et al

JENN WATT

Editor

The following are brief reports of items discussed at the environment and climate change committee of Dysart et al council held Feb. 7.

Dysart is planning to change the way we look at bottled water and single use plastics, starting in its facilities and with its staff.

"We have an entire class delving into research on reducing single use plastic, particularly focused on water bottles," said Dysart's environmental co-ordinator Mallory Bishop. The class is organized through U-Links Centre for Community Based Research through Trent University. They are researching alternatives to plastic and how best to convince people to make the switch.

"A lot of people have fears that have likely been instilled in them through big water bottle companies about it tastes better or the odour is different or it's healthier, they have all these preconceived notions. They're giving us information on that," Bishop said.

Students will look at factors that influence consumption and investigate methods of engaging the public.

"What I wanted them to focus on was changing the culture around water bottles and public perception, because I think that's the best angle we have to influence that at this point in time. They're really looking at ways that you could change public attitude around single use plastic," she said.

Dysart Mayor Andrea Roberts said although meeting minutes from the joint environmental committee indicated the municipality would have a no single-use bottle policy for its facilities by 2019, it was more likely to be 2020.

However, she said Dysart was being proactive, setting up the infrastructure to make it easier to phase out water bottles, by installing a water station at the arena, and changing the expectations for those who rent park space.

Tamara Wilbee, chief administrative officer, said she had learned from talking to organizers from Bayfield, Ont., about their anti-plastic initiative that the infrastructure has to come first.

Bishop agreed: "The way you have to do it is, you have to provide the alternative and then implement."

One idea was to sell reusable bottles at cost at municipal events.

Wilbee said water stations have been included in Dysart's draft budget.

McKechnie wants to talk incineration

Councillor Walt McKechnie said he has a burning question he needs answered: could Dysart incinerate its garbage rather than landfilling it or trucking it away?

He reflected on the recent Rural Ontario Municipal Association conference, which included discussions on waste management, but didn't offer solutions.

"Why in the heck aren't we incinerating our garbage? This is a problem. Nobody talks about it. [They say] 'Oh, we're going to truck it away.' You know what it's going to cost us in 2020, what it's going to cost us to truck it away?" he said, referring to the year the Haliburton landfill will be closed, transitioning to a transfer station. It's expected the cost will greatly increase at that point, which could lead to user fees.

He said he heard they incinerate garbage in Europe and it seems to be working.

Mallory Bishop told him it was an expensive proposition and wasn't without its own environmental problems.

"In order to make money, a certain amount of garbage has to be provided. So we wouldn't provide even enough for them to even bother sending trucks to our area. So, that's one concern," she said.

"Another thing about waste-to-energy [a method of creating electricity or heat through combustion] is that there are a lot of environmental concerns ... because while it's promoted by companies as being clean, it still releases quite a bit of toxins into the air when it's done."

She said for that reason waste reduction was more commonly promoted.

McKechnie said it wasn't about cost for him, it was about removing a longstanding problem.

"If it wasn't working in Europe, I wouldn't even think about it, but it is working. I don't care what it costs. Who cares what it costs? We've got to get rid of the stuff," he said.

Councillor John Smith, who chairs the committee, said waste-to-energy would be added as an agenda item for a future committee meeting.

Low participation in first year of septic reinspection program

Chief building official Karl Korpela came to the committee meeting looking for feedback on how to proceed with year two of the septic reinspection program after only 28 per cent of those eligible took part the first year.

Dysart's program is moving systematically through the municipality, requiring property owners within 30 metres of a lake have a complete septic reinspection including a pump-out.

In 2018-2019, area one was defined as Kennisis Lake, Little Kennisis Lake and Paddys Bay. Seventy-nine of 271 properties on Little Kennisis completed their inspection; 200 of the 730 properties on Kennisis did so.

"The results of the program: less than stellar," Korpela told the committee.

Dysart is having third party inspectors do the work. There have been very few complaints about the program, but with less than one year left for area one and about 700 properties to go, the timeline is tight, Korpela said.

Councillor John Smith, who represents the ward including Kennisis Lake, had a more positive outlook on the low uptake.

He said he'd been a strong advocate for the program in his ward, speaking regularly with constituents during the election.

"Because of the time I spent advocating for this with the lake association, some people up there call me the Poop King ... because of the fact I've been such a vocal proponent for better care of our septs and an inspection program," Smith said. "As I went door-to-door, I had miniscule complaints on this. People were very enthusiastic about it, talked very positively about the fact it was in place."

He thought property owners could be taking a wait and see approach, since they still have 2019 to comply with the bylaw.

"Don't look at the 28 per cent as a failure or a disappointment. It's a new program. We're nearly a third of the way along the journey," he said.

Councillor Walt McKechnie said he would like to see more information given to the public.

"I think that the cottagers have got to understand that the half a million, million, two-million [dollar] property they're sitting on, if those lakes ever go bad ... it can happen. I really think that we've got to educate people more and more to be proactive and monitor their own backyard," he said.

Committee members discussed whether a change should be made to the program, removing the pump-out requirement, which could speed up the process.

Mike Rahme, of HomePro Inspections Central Ontario, said skipping that step would mean some malfunctioning systems would be missed.

"We've done inspections for a lot of people who are very adamant about septic care and appalled when we open up the lid and the back wall of the tank is gone. Nobody knows until you get in and look at it," he said, calling a switch to a less involved inspection system "three steps back."

To help with promoting the program, Rahme brought a mock-up of signage that could add "positive peer pressure." The signs read: "We've done our part! Septic inspection completed." No decision was made on the signage.

Committee members decided that Korpela should continue with the program as usual and that emphasis should be put on amping up education in the year to come.



HomePro Inspections Central Ontario created a mock-up of signage that could be used to create "positive peer pressure." After a septic reinspection, the property owner would place the sign at the end of their driveway. Committee members did not make any decisions about whether to use the sign, or a similar campaign. /Courtesy of HomePro Inspections

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Mother Nature creates obstacles for some, business for others

from page 1

Paul Walker at Home Hardware in Haliburton said that during the worst of the weather last week, customers were coming in for “winter needs,” that included salt, sand and shovels, but also that business was down due to slippery road conditions and people just staying home.

“Mother Nature ain’t doing us any favours, let’s put it that way,” he said, noting that Family Day weekend was significantly busier than business over the past week.

Despite the freezing rain and dumps of snow that wreaked havoc on the road conditions, Marty Grant of Hyland Taxi said business wasn’t necessarily up.

“There hasn’t been any mass explosion of extra customers because their cars wouldn’t start or they couldn’t get out of their driveway,” he said. “There’s been a couple but I get that all the time.”

Grant’s fleet is equipped with snow tires, but he tells drivers to avoid pulling into driveways that are snow-covered due to the potential for hidden ice.

The weather over the past week resulted in fewer customers going out, he said.

“I think over the last couple of days, people have stayed in more than usual, but that’s because it was a really bad, bad couple of days,” he said. “Of course the Tuesday night where it was so snowy, everything closed down early. And it was really dead, like the phone didn’t ring from 7 o’clock at night until 10 to 12. Then the next day, Wednesday, it was slower because of course nobody was going out because of the amount of snow, they hadn’t cleaned out the streets or anything either.”

He recommends that people do stay in when weather results in bad road conditions.

“If they don’t have to go out in winter like we had over the last couple of days, they shouldn’t,” he said. “Even with snow tires, it’s hard to get around. Wait until a better day, because part of the problem too is that up until yesterday you couldn’t even get onto the sidewalk from the road because the snow was banked up so high. You only had a couple of spots along the main street that you could even get from the road onto the sidewalk. The major portion of my customers are seniors, and they shouldn’t be coming out in this.”

Public school students in the area have had eight snow days so far, more than the seven snow days recorded in the entire 2017-2018 school year, but so far less than the 12 inclement weather days from the 2016-2017 year. The average number of inclement weather days for Trillium Lakelands District School Board for the past six years has been about seven, although in the 2014-2015 year, only one day is recorded.

“Every year there are different challenges due to varying weather patterns,” said Catherine Shedden, district manager of corporate communications, TLDSB. “At this point we would not say we are seeing anything unusual compared to the variations in weather over the past several years.”

Although one inclement weather day this year was announced the evening prior to the next day’s bus cancellation, generally school bus cancellations or school closures are called at around 6:30 a.m.

“We are prepared each year and have a process in place to determine cancellations,” said Shedden. “It is not an easy decision and discussions take place very early in the morning. Transportation Services staff review weather alerts, co-ordinate with bus operators, and review surrounding school boards prior to making a decision.”

Gone are the days when families had to rely only on radio or television announcements for bus cancellations and school closures.

“The variety of communication channels where cancellation information is shared has certainly changed over the years,” said Shedden. “At one time it was an email to all staff and information shared with local radio stations and other media. Now we share information with staff, send information to local media, post on mybustoschool.ca, update the board website, update the board intranet, and share on Twitter and Facebook. A sign of the times!”

During bus cancellation days, schools remain open.

“TLDSB staff are expected to make their best effort to get to their place of work or to the closest building to their home,” said Shedden. “There is a grace period given for those who might need more time to clear out their driveway, etc. We ask staff to communicate with their supervisor and each situation is reviewed on an individual basis.”

“Our schools are open on inclement weather days and continue to be places of learning for those who come to the school. It is important that staff are there to be available to these students. However, if weather worsens throughout a bus cancellation day, staff who have trav-



The few pedestrians seen walking on Highland Street were bundled up during Tuesday afternoon when the snowstorm started. It persisted for two days, leaving behind more than 25 centimetres of snow and numerous cancellations and postponements, including school bus cancellations. / DARREN LUM Staff

elled a distance to the school are given the opportunity to head home early. We ensure there is adequate staff at the school to supervise attending students.”

Throughout the county, clients who rely on home support workers and vulnerable clients using Haliburton Highlands Health Services’ Community Support Services saw additional safety and emergency preparedness checks over the past nasty weather spell.

“Typically it is the cold that prompts checks – ensuring heat is sufficient,” said Stephanie MacLaren, vice-president, community programs, HHHS Community Support Services. “And also that clients have enough food and water on hand in case they are unable to get any due to ongoing weather issues.”

Volunteer drivers and Community Support Services van drivers continued to brave the roads, according to MacLaren.

“While many appointments have been rescheduled with the winter weather – some, such as dialysis, are not easily rebooked,” she said, noting the team was able to get most clients to required appointments. “Our drivers are unbelievably committed to ensuring clients get where they need to go. We even had two drivers get clients to cancer treatments in the height of the storm this

“

Our drivers are unbelievably committed to ensuring clients get where they need to go.

— Stephanie MacLaren, HHHS,
on volunteer drivers with Community
Support Services

week – it is really remarkable – they are such a gift to our community.”

Meals on Wheels services were cancelled one day due to road conditions and delivered in a double run the next day.

Chris Bishop at Sir Sam’s Ski & Bike said that the resort is seeing its best year, despite what he said was “crazy weather,” with seven rains since Nov. 10 compared to four or five in years past, and big amounts of snow recently.

“In the last, less than two weeks, we’ve had almost three feet of snow, so that’s great for business but too much snow is not good for business,” he said, explaining that the hills might be in great condition, but if people aren’t travelling much due to road conditions, or if school buses from other areas won’t travel to the area due to local bus cancellations, the resort will see reduced usage.

“We’ve been doing it for 53 years, so yeah, weather can be ... too much snow is not a good thing but at the end of the day it makes for great skiing, but if people can’t get here it’s a double-edged sword, isn’t it?”

Snow at the beginning of the week works well for the resort.

“Snow is a great thing, just depending on what day it comes,” he said. “For us, when we’re closed Mondays and Tuesdays, it’s perfect if it snows Monday and Tuesday, because then we can have time to get it all in good shape, and have everything open and running.”

Inconsistent weather causing great weather on one day and poor weather the next has been tricky for outdoor enthusiasts, and Bishop said some people can be scared off by frostbite warnings, although the resort has seen zero incidence of any frostbite this year and with proper winter clothing and indoor breaks throughout the day it isn’t much of a concern.

“We don’t really have control of our business, the weather controls our business,” he said. “We can do everything we can do to be ready and then when the weather isn’t conducive to what brings people out it might not be too busy ... Mother Nature’s in charge.”

Bouts of major winter weather aren’t quite done yet, according to weather trackers.

Looking forward, Moore said much of the rest of the month looks, “reasonably snow free,” but he did warn of one system that he said could, “play havoc with us this week with five to 10 centimetres.”

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Frost Fest fans embrace winter

Right, Minden's Owen Whitteker, 11, and his father Rick dive head first into frigid water during the annual Lions Club Polar Bear Challenge at Frost Fest on Saturday, Feb. 16 in Haliburton. The challenge raised \$3,146 for SickKids Hospital and \$4,047 for Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation. The festival offered snowshoeing, ice fishing, broomball and dogsled rides, among other activities.



Right, three-year-old Connor Hannan, grandson of Tom Merriman, tries snowshoeing for the first time courtesy of YMCA Wanakita.

Below left, Brett Lawson of Durham sits with son Lucas, 4, while trying their hand at ice fishing on Head Lake on Saturday.

Below right, Highlands resident Tegan Legge, who came with her family, enjoys her Fudge Puppie dessert at Frost Fest in Haliburton.



Above, the Best Group award winners, Cara Oleksuk and Leslie Owtftrim, from Canoe FM waded through water.

*Photos by
Darren
Lum*



Parker Nolan, 1, of Harcourt enjoys his horse-back ride down York Street during Frost Fest. The Haliburton Rotary Club sponsored the horses rides, which were organized by South Algonquin Trails.

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Councillors look for savings in 2019 budget

from page 1

Swannell's presentation showed transportation services with 34 per cent of the budget. Protective services is the second largest at 22 per cent, and environmental services with 20 per cent.

Plenty of conversation on Thursday was triggered by comments made by Councillor John Smith and his inquiries about how much government should spend on some institutions – if at all.

Smith questioned why the municipality owned the properties it did. Swannell had presented a list of rental properties including the Rails End Gallery, Canoe FM, 4Cs, curling club, and medical centre, among others.

"I'd like someone to help me understand the rationale, the objective if you like, of Dysart owning some of these properties," Smith said.

He mentioned the building on Mountain Street that houses Canoe FM, the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust and Volunteer Dental Outreach Clinic. "We own that facility ... capital [is] tied up there and yet I look at our financial statements and even though we don't pay taxes, we're losing money on these buildings every year. In other words, the amount of revenue we collect is significantly less than the operating costs of those buildings and I'm wondering why we as a municipality thought it made sense to become a landlord to a collection of organizations."

Mayor Andrea Roberts said the infrastructure committee will be looking at best use of buildings and it could be discussed then. Staff and councillors gave background information on how the buildings came to be owned by Dysart et al.

Smith said he wasn't criticizing specific organizations, but the municipality is losing money on the buildings.

Councillors were on the same page with a request from Harcourt Park to fund the Straggle Narrows Bridge.

In December, representatives from Harcourt Park, which is a private community on the east side of the municipality, came to council asking for any sum of money to assist with the project, which could cost between \$200,000 to \$350,000.

Their presentation had been impressive, Roberts said, but she didn't think tax dollars should be going to a private group.

When it came to the Haliburton Highlands Museum, the discussion on the nature of taxes and what is in the public good resurfaced, led by Smith.

Museum director Kate Butler explained that there were few additional expenses requested for this year, aside from a \$4,000 ask to repair the historic Reid House.

Smith said the museum costs taxpayers about \$150,000 a year and that from previous reports to council, in 2018



Councillor Larry Clarke, left, discusses the 2019 budget with his fellow councillors and Dysart et al staff on Feb. 14 at council chambers.
/JENN WATT Staff

just under 11,000 people visited, which meant each visitor "cost taxpayers ... just under \$16."

"Terrific that we've got a museum, but I don't understand how we can continue to fund it out of taxes at the level that we are. I don't see any metrics, we talk about the number of visitors, but what is this contributing to the community? What's our goal here?" Smith asked.

Roberts interjected that it wasn't the right time to talk about what the museum provides the community and that the budget meeting was a time to examine specific line items. She said there would be a "goals and objectives" meeting in the future when big picture conversations could happen.

"I can't accept that we're tweaking the budget," Smith said. "We're allocating \$150,000 of property tax dollars to the museum. I happen to think that's an inordinately high amount."

He referenced a talk he attended at the recent Rural Ontario Municipal Association conference in which the speaker highlighted ventures created by individuals in the community, not by government.

"To me, it's completely unacceptable that we spend this much on a museum with no goals in mind in terms of what it's accomplishing," he said, adding he wanted to see the cost to taxpayers come down "dramatically."

Councillor Larry Clarke said the museum, along with other cultural institutions accounted for 17 per cent of the parks and recreation budget. Forty-five per cent of the department's budget was for the arena.

"I challenge you to tell me that we're not getting as much value with what's happening with Rails End Gallery and the museum as we are with the arena and it's a fraction of the cost," Clarke said.

The official plan dictates the municipality runs recreational and cultural programming for the population, he said, and the museum was part of that.

Tamara Wilbee, chief administrative officer, pointed out that the museum safeguards historical items brought in by members of the community.

"There's no slush in that budget," she said.

Next up was a conversation on the arena, which needs a new condenser with a hefty price tag: \$84,000.

Deputy Mayor Patrick Kennedy pointed out that about one per cent of the tax increase was dedicated to that piece of equipment and wondered if it could be taken out of reserves.

Clarke said he would like to see metrics on the arena to find out how it's being used and to ensure Dysart was getting a good return on its investment.

Smith noted running the arena made up about eight per cent of the tax bill.

"Something needs to happen in terms of change here, whether we get the revenue up higher or the expenses down lower, I don't know, but it's not affordable," he said.

He said the hydro bill was \$120,000 a year and part of that comes from summer usage. He wanted to know how

see GALLERY page 10

Budget Notes

- **OMPF comes through:** There had been concern the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund money would be reduced this year, however treasurer Barbara Swannell said she found out last week it would remain the same as last year, \$1.8 million.
- **Reserve funding:** Dysart closed 2018 with reserves at about \$3.6 million. Reserve funds will be used to buy a tandem axle truck (\$245,000), a fire truck (\$450,000), and work on Dignan Bridge (\$141,000) in the coming year.
- **Climate change hits roads budget:** Sanding, salting and snowplowing requires more resources with snow starting earlier and weather more variable. "Under transportation, we're looking at quite an increase here, well over \$400,000, which is 10 per cent over last year's budget and that there represents just over four per cent on the levy alone," Swannell said.
- **Improving County Road 21:** Council heard from Charley White, director of planning, and Craig Douglas, director of public works, from Haliburton County, about plans for County Road 21. Following a study of the road between Peninsula Road near the veterinary clinic and the bridge by the high school, recommendations are being implemented over a 10-year period. In 2019, plans include a left turn lane into Halbiem Crescent, a pedestrian crossing on the east side of that intersection, and widening the shoulder between the bridge and the high school pathway.
- **Planning for recreation:** money is earmarked to be transferred to reserves for a zamboni (\$10,000) and a plan for the upstairs community room in the arena (\$30,000) which needs renovations for accessibility.

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Forever in our memories: Creighton Feir

Positive peer pressure

THE STAFF WORKING on Dysart's septic reinspection program have a challenge ahead of them this year as they attempt to stay on schedule.

At the most recent environment committee meeting, members heard that only 28 per cent of properties in the first area in the program had completed the requirements: a full pump-out of their septic system and inspection.

Area one includes Kennisis Lake, Little Kennisis Lake and Paddys Bay.

About 700 still need to be done, and in order to stay on schedule, all of them need to happen in 2019 before Dysart shifts its focus to area two, including several more lakes and a three-year timeline.

There's no time for delay. The structure of the reinspection schedule is already lengthy; the last area to be inspected will be complete at the end of 2030. That's a lot of time for a lot of damage to be done.

A malfunctioning septic system can contribute to a decline in lake health, in some cases creating the conditions for toxic blue-green algae, which makes the water unusable while it's present.

Karl Korpela, the chief building official, said he hadn't heard negative feedback, but was concerned that so few had gone through the process and presented alternatives to councillors about what could be done. Ultimately, the decision was made to stay the course, and continue promoting the program.

One of the more intriguing suggestions at the meeting came from home inspector Mike Rahme, who brought with him a piece of "positive peer pressure" – a sign that reads: "We've done our part! Sep-

tic inspection completed." He suggested the signs would be planted in the lawns of homes and cottages that had undergone the inspection, which would encourage other residents to do it, too.

The committee didn't go into the logistics of producing the signage and it's not clear whether councillors were interested in adding such a campaign to the program.

But if uptake continues to lag, it might be a good idea to attempt some kind of positive peer pressure.

During the recent American midterm elections, social media was abuzz with photos of citizens emerging from the polling booths with "I voted" stickers. In Vancouver's municipal election last October they did the same, with the *Vancouver Courier* reporting "people were loving the bright pink 'I voted' stickers. Some tweeted they 'voted just for the sticker,' while others colour coordinated the sticker to their outfit."

If it works for voting, could it work for lake health?

It's likely that a good portion of those who haven't yet done their inspections have been putting it off. Maybe they're worried about what the inspector will find. Maybe they just have so little time at the lake as it is, they aren't keen to book an inspection at the same time.

Could minds be changed or memory jogged if signs started popping up at the end of their neighbours' driveways? Maybe even something as unobtrusive as a sticker or ribbon on a mailbox?

It's worth a try. Of the 279 systems checked last year, 17 needed to be entirely replaced.

To preserve lake health, we need as much buy-in as we can get.



jenn watt

Editorial

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Grate image

by Darren Lum

Yoga Journal inspiration

IHAVE A FRIEND whose mother is turning 83 today and she is on her way back from her first yoga retreat in Ecuador. She absolutely loved her adventure and loved her yoga experience.

She went with a group of yoga buddies and she sent her daughter a lovely note on the final day saying that she realized that she not only did yoga now because it was good for her, but because she loved how it made her feel.

If I was the publisher of the *Yoga Journal*, the premier yoga publication for yoga students, I would put this woman on the front page, with her other 80-year-old yoga friends. I think they are so inspiring and are good teachers about how you can do yoga your whole life.

I have always said that yoga is a practice that you can do no matter your age or ability.

There are so many styles, some that are suitable when you are in your 20s and 30s and others when you are a senior. There are practices that are designed for people who are injured or tired.

I've worked with so many amazing people in my 20-plus years of teaching. The people who amaze me are the people who do yoga no matter what challenging situation they have been given.

Last year I worked with an incredible young woman who was recovering from Guillain-Barre syndrome which is a rare condition when the immune system attacks your nerves. This young woman was totally paralyzed for a period of time, and then spent months in the hospital recuperating.

I got the opportunity to work with

her when she came home, before she returned back to work. She inspired me every time I worked with her.

She taught me about the power of mindfulness and the breath as she worked to regain her balance, strength and flexibility. I would put her on the front cover of the *Yoga Journal* in a heartbeat.

And she was one of the most positive, hopeful people I've ever met. That is a lesson in itself.

I've had a "Yoga for Builders" class for 10 years. In it there are builders of

houses, minds (teachers) and communities (volunteers). I love this class and I would put them on the cover of the *Yoga Journal* in an instant. These are hard working people who come every Wednesday evening.

It's the middle of the week and they are usually tired and often sore and it would be easy to stay home on the couch. But they come and they work with their sore shoulders, tight hamstrings and sore

backs.

And they support each other with lots of laughter. I love them. They are good, honest, hardworking people who just want to look after their bodies so they can do what they love. And they inspire me.

Yoga is not about how you look, it's about how you feel. It's not about which pose you are doing, but more about how you are being in the pose.

There are so many great yoga teachers in Haliburton County now. There is a great little yoga studio that opened in Minden last summer.

I am confident there is something for everyone! You'll be the first to know when my picture gets chosen for the cover of the *Yoga Journal*!

Tales from
the great



lynda shadbolt

Green meadow

points of view

How can you mend a broken heart?

IF A YOUNG PERSON asked me to recommend a sound investment, I wouldn't hesitate to tell them to put all their money in Valentine's Day cards.

If recent experience is any indication, their value is increasing at an astronomical rate.

There are good reasons for this. First, they are in high demand.

That's because very few men possess the artistic capabilities to draw a heart that doesn't look like it needs CPR.

Worse, while we do feel love for our Valentines, we are not particularly good at writing romantic prose. Heck, I make my living as a writer and the best I could come up with is, "If I had to choose between you and my favourite duck call, it would be you."

Though this is sincere and straight from the heart, I think we can all agree it loses something in translation.

That's why I found myself in the drug store card aisle on Feb.

14, 2019, which is what most men now solemnly refer to as Red Thursday. My goal was to find the perfect Valentine's Day card before my Valentine got home from work.

For those unaware of what "perfect" means – it is essentially a card that says anything but "If I had to choose between you and my favourite duck call, it would be you."

As previously discussed, this sentiment, romantic as it may be, is often taken the wrong way – probably because women tend to underestimate how much emotional attachment a man has to his favourite duck call.



steve
galea

Loon Tales

In any case, on Red Thursday, the area around the Valentine's Day card rack reeked of panic, fear and desperation. It was like a shark tank with men circling continually while trying not to make eye contact or show any weakness as they looked for just the right card.

I circled twice before finally grabbing one that appealed to me – which was the one that did not say anything that could later be used against me. That's when I saw the true genius of the Valentine's Day card manufacturer.

The font they used on the back of the card to indicate price was far too small for the average middle-aged man to read without glasses, which as their marketing research had doubtlessly proven, are always in the car.

They also seemed to understand the discomfort the average middle-aged man feels, circling beside a rack of Valentine's Day cards in full sight of his peers, while knowing full well that the clock is running down. This is why I grabbed the card and envelope and sprinted to the cash register.

Little did I know that the trap was about to be sprung.

Once I got in line, several women, who were, I'm guessing, paid agents of the Valentine's Day card company, lined up behind me, thus cutting off any chance of escape.

"That will be, \$11.25," the cashier then said.

"Are you talking to me?" I asked. It was a fair question. I mean, the only thing I bought was a gaudy piece of paper adorned with hearts and sickeningly sweet sentiments.

"Yes," she said coolly. "The card is \$11.25. Do you want to return it and get a less expensive one?"

Suddenly, the Hallmark ladies behind me began murmuring with disapproval.

I looked back at their stern glances and then at the Valentine's Day aisle beyond where despondent men milled about in abject confusion.

"No," I said. "This is the one I want."

The good news is Jenn was happy with the card and the accompanying gift.

Next year, I'm putting more effort into buying the right card though.

I'm taking my reading glasses.



pic of the past

To raise the level of the lakes, loggers built timber slides, glance dams, cleared channels and held back water in order to have the water needed to move their logs downstream to mills in the spring. This dam was on the outlet of Mud Lake, now called Outlet Bay of Drag Lake. Present day water levels, maintained by the Trent-Severn Waterway, are a legacy of the logging days of Haliburton County. Photo courtesy of *Haliburton: A History in Pictures*, by the Haliburton Highlands Museum

Celebrated classical musicians set to perform

The Haliburton Concert Series's 2019 season is one of its most exciting ever: three concerts featuring top-rate classical music performers will be presented in Haliburton this spring and fall.

On Sunday, May 5 we will welcome the Rolston String Quartet, a young Canadian prize-winning quartet that is rising quickly on the international stage. The group was listed as one of CBC's "30 Hot Canadian Musicians under 30" in 2016, and they continue to win prizes at home and abroad. This promises to be a memorable afternoon.

Pianist James Parker will be the performer on Sunday, Sept. 22. *The Globe and Mail* has said he has "10 of the nimblest fingers in the business." He has performed for us in the past as part of the Gryphon Trio, and now returns as a solo pianist.

The final concert of the season on Sunday, Oct. 20, will feature the musical high jinks of soprano Mary Lou Fallis and pianist Peter Tiefenbach in Fallis & Tiefenbach: More or Less LIVE in Haliburton! Lots of fun and laughter, as well as great music.

Tickets are now available in more ways than

ever. The traditional subscription for all three concerts is \$60 for adults and \$25 for students. This year we've added a two-concert subscription, with your choice of two of the three concerts, for \$50. And single tickets are available for all three concerts – \$30 for adults and \$10 for students. Contact Fred Shuttleworth at 705-455-9060 or fred.ann.shuttleworth@gmail.com for tickets and more information.

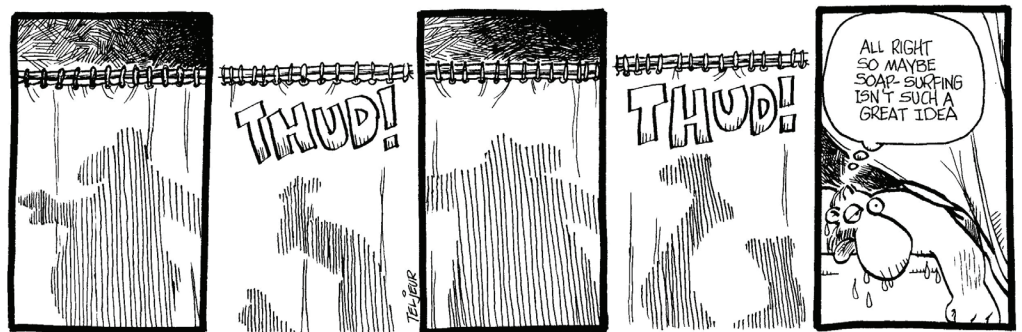
All concerts take place at 2:30 p.m. in the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion in Haliburton village. Yummy refreshments provided by members of the organizing committee are served at intermission, and the performers will be available to chat with audience members at the end of the concert.

Further details can be found on our website: www.haliburtoncs.blogspot.com.

We are grateful to the Ontario Arts Council for their generous support of our season.

Submitted by the Haliburton Concert Series

BOONiEVILLE



Short-term housing survey asks for insight in Highlands East

SUE TIFFIN

Staff Reporter

The following are brief reports of items discussed at the Feb. 12 meeting of Highlands East council.

Council is seeking input from the public to gain more insight into what approach to take with short-term rentals in the area, beginning with feedback on a draft questionnaire. The survey is based on a similar one conducted by Minden Hills township.

Currently, the draft copy asks the relationship of the survey taker with short-term rentals, if the survey taker has personally experienced or observed short-term rental homes to be associated with unwanted behaviours (including noise, parking, poor property management and fire code concerns), and whether the survey taker believes short-term rentals play a positive role in economic development in Highlands East, have a negative impact on traditional tourist accommodation operators such as bed and breakfasts or motels, and if they have a negative impact on long term housing availability.

Survey takers can rank any concerns they might have and can note whether they are generally supportive of homes being used as short-term rentals.

The survey comes after the municipality decided not to proceed with a planned short-term accommodation committee last December.

At that time, Mayor Dave Burton released a statement that said, "[A]dvisory committees are governed by our procedural bylaw and legislated to follow the municipal conflict. A direct pecuniary interest is one that expressly or unequivocally has an impact on the individual members' finances, economic prospects or property value. The impact may be positive (i.e. the member stands to gain financial) or negative (i.e. the member is able to avoid a loss)."

Burton said the issue had been contentious and had divided the municipality.

When the questionnaire is finalized, it is expected to be public for at least 45 days. It could be released via website, social media, distribution through cottage associations and/or a direct mailing, which would require 6,000 three-page copies and postage.

Written input into what the survey looks like will be accepted up to March 18.

Ken Riley retires

A longtime attendant at the Lloyd Watson Memorial Arena, Ken Riley, recently retired.

"Many will miss his presence at the arena," said Jim Alden, property supervisor, in his monthly report. "Stating this, the property department continue to work towards providing a great service."

Portable generator purchase

Council approved a recommendation from the recreation and culture advisory committee to purchase a portable generator for use at special events.

The recommendation came after Canada Day celebrations in Tory Hill last year, when no power was available to run sound and recording equipment, according to a report by Joanne Vanier, community economic development and committee co-ordinator.

"Further discussion of Christmas events that could be held at the park in Tory Hill reinforced the benefits of having hydro available," said Vanier's report. A permanent hydro connection was determined to not be feasible.

The generator will cost between \$760 and \$1,450 and can be used at locations around the municipality as required.

Minden resident wins early bird draw

Peter Oyler holds up the winning Cash for Care early bird draw ticket on Thursday, Feb. 14 at the Haliburton hospital. Minden resident Don Selbie was the \$500 winner. The draw is a fundraiser for Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation. There are six more chances to win with three early bird draws, each worth \$500, and three final draws worth \$20,000, \$2,000 and \$1,000 on May 30. The next early bird draw is March 15. More than 3,500 tickets, 75 per cent of those available, have been sold. Funds raised help to support the purchase of medical equipment. /DARREN LUM Staff





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Hodgson engines return home from Pickering

STEPHEN HILL

Haliburton Highlands Museum

Friday, Nov. 23, 2018, was a significant day for the Haliburton Highlands Museum, for it was on this day that they took delivery of two engines from the Pickering Museum Village of Pickering, Ont., that had come to them many years ago from the Hodgson sawmill at Haliburton Lake.

In 1941, Haliburton lumberman Clayton Wesley "C.W." Hodgson (1897-1970) had a large sawmill erected at Haliburton Lake to process some of the stands of adjacent timber. This occurred during the days of the Second World War (1939-1945), and the mill and its crew worked long hours to supply lumber for the war effort. Much responsibility in this operation was placed on the shoulders of Hodgson's oldest son, Ronald Glen Hodgson (1926-1996), who followed in his father's footsteps.

The mill was a great producer of lumber for the wartime needs. When the war ended, the emphasis shifted to production for outside industry and local markets. Clayt Hodgson, however, was also keen on politics. After a few terms on Dysart council, he served as reeve of Dysart in 1944 before becoming the federal Member of Parliament in Ottawa for the Victoria riding in 1945, a position he held until stepping down in 1963. Because his political career necessitated long absences from Haliburton, Glen was compelled to take on more responsibility in his father's lumber business.

This culminated in Clayt selling the operation to Glen in 1949. Like his father, Glen hired capable workmen who were loyal and hard working. Glen continued with the Haliburton Lake mill until the early 1960s when it closed down as markets changed and resources dwindled.

After the Haliburton Lake mill closed, it was eventually torn down and the site cleared up. Much of the equipment found new homes; nothing was wasted.

Unfortunately, some of the mill's machinery was obsolete in the industry by then. One of these was the oversized engine made by Waterous in Brantford, Ont. It was powered by steam and its seven-foot diameter flywheel was rigged to power much of the mill's machinery. It played a major role in the mill's operation.

By the 1960s, however, there was not much demand for this older equipment.

The engine had served them well and had been lovingly maintained; Glen was sentimental and reluctant to see it sold for scrap. Fortunately, at that time, the Pickering Museum was actively collecting old steam machinery and accessories as part of their working mandate. They were blessed with an abundance of capable old farmers and machine operators who were licensed steam operators and mechanics, all dedicated and anxious to see the old technologies preserved and demonstrated. Glen therefore sent the large engine and a few other bits and pieces to Pickering. Since working machinery was part of the Pickering Museum's program, they had a barn constructed to house these large items. Mounts were made for the various types of machinery and all were connected to a central exhaust system that allowed them to operate indoors for the benefit of the visitors.

The working engines were an overwhelming success for Pickering and made their site a popular visitor destination. Over the years, as the licensed steam operators passed on, it became difficult to demonstrate the machinery. Stringent steam regulations, coupled with the fear of explosion due to possible metal fatigue in the older engines led Pickering to recently re-assess their collections and operations mandate. It was decided to part out much of their machinery collection, offering it to other museums for display, and thereby keeping it within the public domain.

When Glen Hodgson sent his machinery to the Pickering Museum back in the 1960s, it was at a time prior to the establishment of the Haliburton Highlands Museum, which occurred during 1967-68. Around 1983 Glen was appointed to the board of management of the Haliburton museum by Dysart council.

He grew to regret having sent the Hodgson sawmill machinery to Pickering. After much careful consideration, he contacted Pickering to determine the possibility of buying back the equipment he had sent them, so that it could be displayed in the museum at Haliburton. While the Pickering management sympathized with Glen's intentions, they could not accommodate his request because the large engine was incorporated into their working machinery exhibit and its removal would break up their display. To his credit, Glen was understanding of the circumstances and consoled himself that if the engine had not gone to Pickering, it would likely have been scrapped.

The Waterous engine was offered to



The Waterous engine donated by Glen Hodgson to the Pickering Museum made its way back to Haliburton in the fall of 2018. /Photo submitted

the Haliburton Highlands Museum by Pickering in the fall of 2017. Haliburton museum staff visited Pickering later that year and deemed the engine worthy of acceptance. The engine was to be given to Haliburton at no cost; they only had to pay for shipping. The Rotary Club of Haliburton learned about the engine and graciously donated \$3,000 toward the moving costs.

After much footwork and arrangements, the engine arrived back in Haliburton in the fall of 2018, shipped by Anderson Haulage, a respected company recommended by the Pickering staff. The Pickering Museum also sent a smaller

engine, a stationary model reputedly made by the James Morrison Co. Ltd., of Toronto; it had originally come from Glen Hodgson as well. Thanks to the Pickering Museum Village and the Rotary Club of Haliburton, the engine has made a homecoming. Glen Hodgson would definitely be ecstatic. Work is presently underway to create a mount for the engine on the front lawn of the museum under the voluntary efforts of Derek Rowden Construction. It is hoped that the engine will be set up for viewing in 2019.

Stephen Hill is curator of the Haliburton Highlands Museum.



The engine, donated by Haliburton's Glen Hodgson to the Pickering Museum in the 1960s, will be mounted in front of the Haliburton Highlands Museum.

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Gallery good value for money, Roberts says

from page 5

much summer rentals brought in.

Andrea Mueller, recreation program co-ordinator, said the arena is well used, especially in evenings and in the summer people are clamouring for time.

Roberts added that the municipality was not the same as running a private business.

"You can't put a dollar value on people's quality of life," she said. "The arena is the heart and soul for so many families living here, whether you use it or not, it's

an integral part of who we are," she said.

Smith said the revenue of the arena doesn't pay the wages of employees working in the building.

Councillor Walt McKechnie said he was getting frustrated at the conversation that seemed to be returning to the topic of

shutting down institutions and services.

"What ... are we doing? I'm not saying we shouldn't critique, that's what we should be doing here: critiquing the expenses whenever we can to save a few bucks," he said.

He said it'd be hard to attract young families to a community that doesn't have an arena.

Council passed a resolution to pay for the condenser, with conversation leaning toward taking some of that money from reserves.

Town docks stirred up another heated conversation. Mueller told council that the Head Lake docks are falling apart, creating a liability. Replacement will cost \$33,000.

Smith questioned why docks were needed in town. "It's another expenditure in the village of Haliburton," he said.

Councillor Nancy Wood-Roberts, who represents the ward that includes Haliburton village, responded that Haliburton is the core of the municipality.

"That's a matter of perspective," Smith quipped.

Kennedy said he'd like to see the dock program expanded with rental units. "There's a huge demand for dock rental space," he said.

He said it might be worth spending more money on docks and making money, which could be saved for future repairs.

"If we had 10 spots we rented at \$600 a year, that's \$6,000 a year income coming in," he said.

Clarke was in favour of spending money on the docks, arguing they benefited cottagers who wanted to come into town by boat.

"It's not a big amount and ... helps that part of our tax base," he said.

If council was looking to help cottagers, Smith said there were various lakes that could use docks.

Kennedy said many already have them, and suggested Smith could put together a proposal for more.

McKechnie said in his personal life he is much like the cottaging population, on a property out of town, but didn't have a problem with tax dollars spent on improving Haliburton village.

"Nobody's being deprived of anything," McKechnie said, "I don't look at it like that - I don't have this, I don't have that. I love that we have a beautiful downtown and what we've done over the last number of years here with the library and the arena and the streetscape and on and on and the three condos we've got in town."

Smith said he didn't think cottagers were being deprived, but that they weren't seeing enough improvements in their neighbourhoods.

"These are the same cottagers we tell them we can't afford to fix their roads, though. That's the discouraging part of it," he said. "The museum, in recent years has consumed \$1 million. \$1 million."

Roberts called the statement about the museum out of order and asked for decorum.

Conversations continued through the afternoon, with representatives from the planning and building departments attending to answer questions. Similar, though less intense conversations happened around whether dog tags should still be required and how much parking tickets should cost.

When the Rails End Gallery's annual \$50,000 grant came up, council again discussed whether government should fund cultural institutions.

Kennedy asked for background information on whether the gallery always received that grant and if there was a plan

see BUDGET page 11



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Budget discussions to continue in March

from page 10

for them to move toward self-sustainability.

The grant has been there for years, staff said, and has not increased to accommodate rising costs.

Smith questioned why the municipality would put money into an institution for one group of people and not others.

"What's the goal? What are we trying to accomplish by funding this? How do we know it's a good use of tax dollars? There are lots of occupation groups up here other than artists and none of them receive this sort of support. We've got a commercial arts studio around the corner there that's actually having to reduce their hours because of lack of activity, but we're still going to collect taxes and subsidize a competing organization," he said.

Wilbee said Rails End Gallery hosts community events and programming, which is not the role of a private gallery.

Other members of council spoke in favour of the gallery. Roberts said that the arts cost money and \$50,000 is good value for the money. Clarke said the artist population of the Highlands is large and events such as the annual Art and Craft Festival draws people to Haliburton.

There was no appetite from the rest of council to cut the gallery's funding, but there were questions about an additional \$2,000 requested for an environmental project. More information was needed, councillors agreed.

The purpose of the Feb. 14 budget meeting was to give staff direction on new expenditures and where to trim. With the information provided on Thursday, the next draft will be presented on March 14.

Measuring regional homelessness

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

This article is the third in a series on homelessness in Haliburton County leading up to an awareness event to be held throughout the county on March 1.

Homelessness Registry Week might be more than a year away, but it's never too early to raise awareness, said homelessness system resource co-ordinator for the City of Kawartha Lakes and County of Haliburton Jocelyn Blazey.

The registry, which is a week long survey of people experiencing homelessness, is part of the 20,000 Homes Campaign.

It is a national change movement focused on ending chronic homelessness in 20 communities and housing 20,000 of Canada's most vulnerable homeless people by July 1, 2020.

Although there have been 19,999 housing move-ins reported as of Friday, Feb. 15, the effort is continuing.

The campaign was inspired by the 100,000 Homes and Built for Zero Campaigns but has been adapted to Canada.

"As part of that collaborative they were asking communities to conduct registry weeks in an effort to at least try and identify how many individuals you have in your community who are experiencing homelessness to figure out how many you need to support and house to figure out how far away we are to reach the 20,000," Blazey said.

The CKL-H has completed two registries, starting in 2016. They are one of 38 participating communities.

The next Homelessness Registry Week will be in 2020. It is expected to be held

“

We're trying to build a system where it allows us to identify individuals experiencing ... homelessness at any day at any time.

— Jocelyn Blazey

sometime between March and May, ensuring there is a baseline for results since housing needs are different in the winter months compared to spring and summer.

The decision to have a registry every two years was based on the provincial mandate, which outlined a community must perform an enumeration every two years starting in 2018.

Unlike other areas where they conduct a one-day survey known as a point in time count, the Kawartha Lakes-Haliburton area surveys for a week to create a "by name list" to identify as many individuals as possible and obtain specific information on each individual surveyed.

"We know who the individual is by name and we then also know what our level of need in the community as a whole and so it creates an accountability to the system in the sense of we know your name and know this is what you need in terms of support so how can we support

you?" she said.

Point in time counts take anonymous and generic information, which doesn't account for who the individual is and what their specific needs are.

There were 208 names added to the CKL-H list established in August of 2016. There have been more than 90 move-ins. There are currently 53 individuals being connected.

Blazey made a point of saying they don't track if the individuals they've helped have moved into housing as a result of the help they received, or if they found housing on their own.

When asked about the effect of the 2018 registry, Blazey said it's part of a larger process recently launched known as a co-ordinated entry system.

"So, essentially what it is is we're recognizing individuals, who aren't going to be homeless just for that one week where we do a registry week so we're trying to build a system where it allows us to identify individuals experiencing ... homelessness at any day at any time," she said. "So, we're building a co-ordinated entry system ... we've worked with different community agencies so that individuals can [be] present there and be connected to the system and so we've seen some successes around implementing that system around the community. We've also been able to collaborate with different agencies."

The overall approach by CKL-H ensures individuals with the greatest need will receive help first.

The sleeping in cars event takes place overnight on Friday, March 1 to raise awareness of the homelessness issue. Visit www.placesforpeople.ca for more information.

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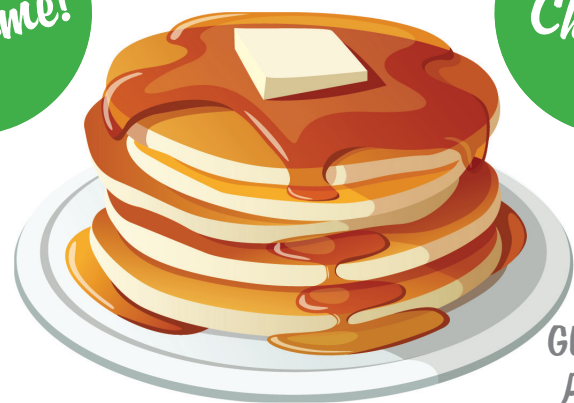
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Hawks wrestlers pin down second

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

It was the only wrestling meet hosted by the Hawks this year and the team made good with their opportunity in front of friends, family and peers during the COSSA seeding meet on Thursday, Feb. 14 in Haliburton.

Head coach Paul Klose, who co-coaches with Dan Fockler, said it was a winning day for his wrestlers, who finished second overall as a team and will all advance to COSSA.

Thirteen wrestlers competed: Charlotte Paton, Connie Oh, Aidan Coles, Nic Graham, Ben Pilcher, Eli Samson, Austin

Weller, Tyler McGovern, Owen Wootton, Ethan Coles, Logan Heaven, Nick Phippen and Corin Gervais.

Eight Hawks wrestlers earned a top four seed.

Paton won gold in the 64 kilogram weight class to lead the team and will enter COSSA this coming week as the top seed. Silver medals and two seeds were earned by Aidan Coles (95 kilograms), Weller (72 kilograms), Heaven (57.5 kilograms), Gervais (47.5 kilograms) while bronze medal was earned by Graham (89 kilograms) and Phippen (54 kilograms) earned a fourth seed.

The seeding earned provides the wrestlers with a "better spot in the COSSA draw."



Red Hawks wrestler Nic Graham grapples with Macil McFarlane of CCI in the 89 kilogram weight class at the COSSA seeding meet on Thursday, Feb. 14 in Haliburton. The Hawks boasted 13 wrestlers, who represented weight classes 47.5 kilograms to 95 kilograms. The championship, which included a field of 165 wrestlers from 15 schools, provides high schoolers the opportunity to advance to all-provincials. /DARREN LUM Staff



Red Hawks wrestler Charlotte Paton takes position over her opponent Serena MacFarlane in the 64 kilogram weight class



Red Hawks wrestler Aidan Coles pins his opponent David Travis of CCI in the 95 kilogram weight class



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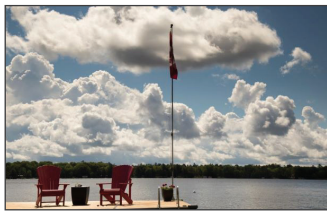
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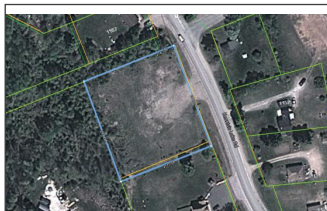
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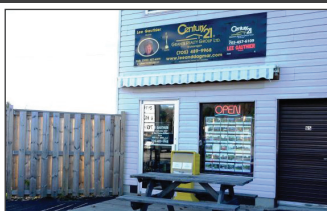
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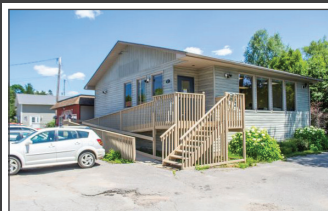
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Reynolds Rd \$79,900

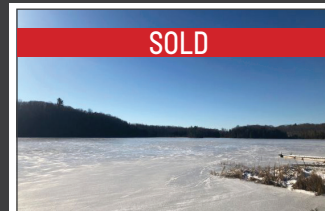
- 9-acre building lot abutting golf course
- Driveway installed, utilities at the lot line
- Lovely neighbourhood, close to Minden



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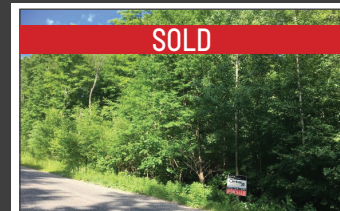
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- CLUES ACROSS

 - 1. Civil rights organiza-
tion
 - 5. Cause to lose courage
 - 10. Outside entertaining
area
 - 14. Botswana currency
 - 15. Comedic Actor Tim
 - 16. Barbary sheep
 - 17. German river
 - 18. Take
 - 19. Catches
 - 20. Eating houses
 - 22. Consumed
 - 23. Lawyers try them
 - 24. Hugh Jackman char-
acter
 - 27. Basics
 - 30. No (Scottish)
 - 31. Duct
 - 32. Athlete who plays for
pay
 - 35. Unit of distance
 - 37. Female bird
 - 38. Predatory reptile
 - 39. Regions
 - 40. Dishonorable man
 - 41. Dry white Italian wine
 - 42. A way to understand
 - 43. Actors' organization
 - 44. Beach hut
 - 45. Disappointment
 - 46. Police officer
 - 47. Digital audiotape
 - 48. Western Thai people
 - 49. Of a polymer
 - 52. Secret political clique
- CLUES DOWN

 - 1. Detailed drawing
 - 2. Class of comb jellies
 - 3. Musical symbol
 - 4. Hall of Fame ball-
player Rod
 - 5. Pouch
 - 6. Split
 - 7. Having wings
 - 8. Set aside
 - 9. Midway between
northeast and east
 - 10. Daughter of Acrisius
 - 11. Periods of time
 - 12. Rapper Ice _
 - 13. Any of several candies
 - 21. Units of loudness
 - 23. Central nervous sys-
tem
 - 25. Resinous secretion of
insects
 - 26. 007's creator
- 27. Separate from
 - 28. Exposes to view
 - 29. Harsh squeaking
sound
 - 32. Fishing vessel (Naut.)
 - 33. Western Ukrainian
city
 - 34. The sea
 - 36. Unhappy
 - 37. Old miserable woman
 - 38. Corn comes on it
 - 40. Guinea pig-like mam-
mal
 - 41. Self-immolation by
fire rituals
 - 43. Fifth note of a major
scale
 - 44. Automobile
 - 46. Military title (abbr.)
 - 47. Expunge
 - 49. Chadic language
 - Bura_
 - 50. Something you win
 - 51. Grab
 - 52. Town in Galilee
 - 53. Polite interruption
sound
 - 54. Italian Seaport
 - 57. La _ Tar Pits
 - 58. "To _ his own"
 - 59. Tom Clancy hero Jack
 - 61. These three follow A
 - 62. One of Napoleon's
generals

Answers on page 18



The HHSS senior girls volleyball team won the Kawartha Championship with a closely contested 3-0 win over Campbellford on Thursday, Feb. 14 at Kenner Collegiate in Peterborough. The Hawks earned their finals berth with a 3-0 win over Kenner in the semi-final. The seniors will host the COSSA championship on Wednesday, Feb. 20 and if they win will advance to the all-provincials. Games start at 10 a.m. From left at back, coach Dan Gimon, Alyssa Bogardis, Rebecca Archibald, Natalya Gimon, Arden Harrop, Ania Smolen, Dakota MacDonald and co-coach Janice Scheffee. From left at front, Ruthie Parker, Emma Casey and Freya Moran. Absent for the championship were Nicole Cox and Samantha Steffensen./Submitted by Walter Tose

Red Hawks senior volleyball team dominates Kawartha

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

On Wednesday, Feb. 20, the Red Hawks senior girls' volleyball team will be the top seed, playing for a chance to earn a berth to the all-provincials.

They earned their seeding with a dominant performance at the Kawartha Championship on Thursday, Feb. 15 at Kenner Collegiate in Peterborough.

After two matches, the Hawks were perfect, not dropping a set, beating championship host Kenner 3-0 and then Campbellford 3-0 in the final.

Head coach Dan Gimon, who co-coaches the team with Janice Scheffee, said the players are looking forward to hosting COSSA.

"They are excited at the opportunity to play in front of a home crowd and that shows us that we have been successful in raising their level of self confidence, where in the past they would have been tentative. Having COSSA at home was also an incentive for the girls going into today's championship [on Thursday, Feb. 14] and now it's nice not to have to travel for a change," he wrote in an email. "It's been one step at a time for them in a long season and they have been working hard to achieve the goals that we set as a team. Now comes the final hurdle."

Gimon said the team may have started their Kawartha semi-final slowly, but found their game.

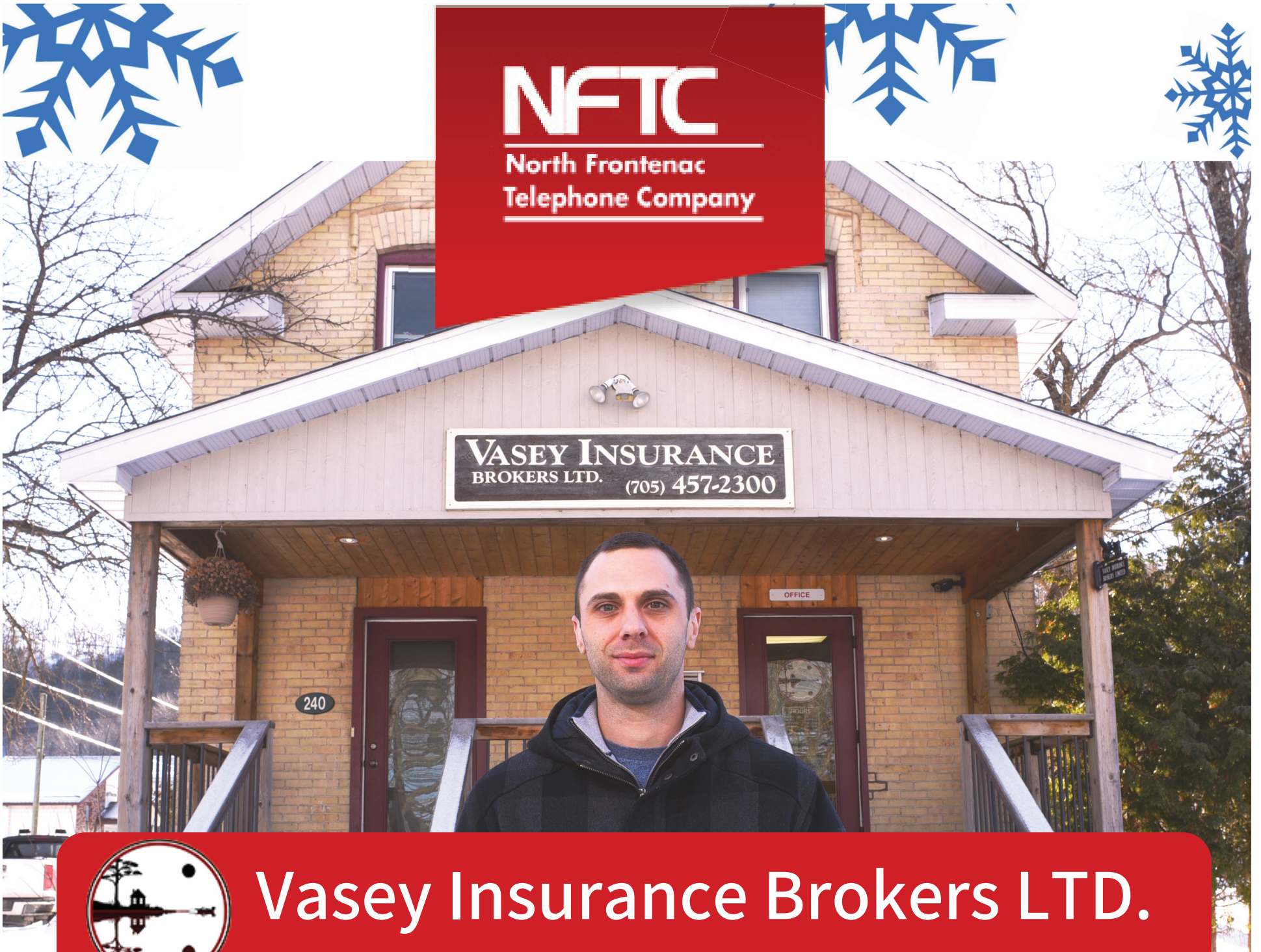
"In the first match our team dominated Kenner both in serving and offence (after starting off missing the first five out of six serves). We (co-coach Janice Scheffee and I) chalked it up to the girls getting the bad serves out of their systems and that's exactly how it played out. The serving improved, the girls calmed down and cruised comfortably to a 3-0 win (25-14, 25-8, 25-17)," he said.

In preparation for the final, the coaches watched the other semi-final match between Campbellford and St. Thomas. They discovered the eventual finals opponent, Campbellford didn't have a strong offence, relying on their "decent" defence and mistakes committed by their opponents.

"They have a habit of leaving certain areas of the court undefended so those areas became our targets. When our offence was on, they had difficulty defending. When we played the "free ball" game we often lost the rally due to an unforced error. The girls knew where to put the ball but given their age, experience, and the 'adrenaline factor' were not always successful in placing it there. That combined with a number of missed serves is what made the sets close. Campbellford was actually the only single A team to take a set from us this season and that was because we missed 11 serves that set. We decreased the number of unforced errors and ended up winning 3-0 (26-24, 25-20, 25-23). Too close for our liking but wins nevertheless," he said.



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minor hockey

Atom A

This past weekend the Ridgewood Ford and Cottage Country Building Supplies Atom A team played games two and three of their second round playoff series. Game 1 was an afternoon start in Minden and following a Novice win the Storm Atoms were looking for a similar result.

Moments after puck drop the Storm was on fire as a crisp breakout pass up the middle by Toby Posti set up a fast moving rush headed deep into Wolves' territory. Austin Latanville timed his backhand saucer pass to Josh Scheffee who found an open short side for the first goal of the game.

The Storm would go on and trade goals back and forth with the Wolves to make the game interesting. Goals by Parker Simms assisted by Scheffee and Liam Harrison and an unassisted Jace Mills marker had the game tied at three.

A fourth Wolves goal happened with a well timed shift change where an elusive forward managed to sneak in behind Storm defence all alone ending the effort as a 4-1 Storm loss.

The Family Day weekend series continued in Shelburne on Sunday and the Atoms came to play. An intense forecheck led to yet another chaotic goal by Deagan Davison assisted by Evan Jones who worked hard to make it happen.

A second goal by MacLean Rowden lit the lamp as a rebound from an Austin Latanville shot that was too much for the Wolves netminder to handle. On the power play Jace Mills redirected a tight angle shot attempt by Josh Scheffee to make the score 3-1 in the second.

The game was tied at three headed into the third period. Josh Scheffee took another shot and missed the net to our benefit as Evan Jones was right at the back door picking up the behind the net bounce and banging it in the net.

Chase Winder denied multiple chances including a definitive wrap around attempt that would have had the Storm chasing the lead.

Goal number five was all about Caleb Manning's rush up through the neutral zone on his own ending in

the paint as he lifted the puck over a seemingly tamed Wolves goalie breaking the tie. With the net empty both Parker Simms and Jace Mills sailed wrist shots right on target from down the ice. Final score of 7-4.

Catch the Atoms in action in Haliburton this upcoming Saturday for a 5:30 p.m. start as they fight to tie up the series.

By Pasi Posti

Midgets

Congratulations to the Highlander and Ed Smolen Family Dentistry Highland Storm Midgets as they move onto the semi-finals by winning the series 3-1, against the Stayner Cyclones. The Midgets travelled to Stayner for Game 4, Feb. 16 and demolished the Cyclones 5-0. The Storm wasted no time and took control of the game from the start. They put the pressure on and kept it on.

Early in the first period, Smith scored on a power play, with help from Dollo. A few minutes later, MacNaull chipped in the second goal, assisted by Dollo and Smith. The second period was no different, the Storm dominated every play. The Cyclones retaliated and the period was filled with penalties. Dollo got the next goal by manoeuvring nicely from deep in the Storm's end and found the opening.

The Storm took advantage of a power play and made it a 4-0 game with seconds left on the clock. Give and go action led to the stick of Dollo and his point shot scored, ending the second period.

The third period had a busy penalty box, as the Cyclones' frustration grew. Midway through, Haedicke finished things off when he picked up the rebound from Clements shot and made it 5-0.

Great job to the entire team, Sisson was outstanding in net, each player did their part and contributed to the victory.

By Suzanne Haedicke

Peewee A

On Thursday, Feb. 14, the JoAnne Sharpley's Source for Sports/Haliburton Family Medical Centre Highland

Storm Peewee A hosted the Shelburne Wolves in Game 2 of the quarter finals. It was a close 2-1 win for the Storm. Goals were scored by Cooper Coles and Addison St Cyr. The Peewee A team's next game is on Feb. 22 at 6 p.m. in Shelburne where they hope to sweep the series in Game 3.

By Amber Card

Novice

The Haliburton TimberMart/Haliburton Hockey Haven Sports Camp Novice Reps played their third game against the Shelburne Wolves on Saturday in Minden. The Storm was up two games and just needed one more win to move on but the Wolves proved they weren't going down without a fight.

There were many back and forth plays in the first period but no goals scored. Near the end of the second, Isaac Trotter picked up a fumbling puck in front of the net and fired in the first goal for the Storm. Luke Gruppe scored a similar goal in the third, followed by a top left shot in front of the net by Henry Neilson.

The Storm took the game with a 3-0 win and they will move on to the semi-finals. Congratulations to goalie Carter Braun for his shutout and good luck to the team in the next round!

By Sara Gruppe

Peewee LL

On Saturday, the LL Peewee Home Hardware team travelled to Burk's Falls to take on the Almaguin Ice Devils. Storm came strong in the first period scoring three quick goals with Nathan Harrison starting the scoring assisted by Wyatt Raposo.

Daniel Stephen scored an unassisted goal. Weston Bowker scored assisted by Emery Bagshaw. The Storm's scoring continued with Raposo scoring assisted by Harrison. Almaguin managed to get one with three minutes left of the first to which the Storm responded with two more unassisted goals by Harrison and Stephen.

see page 17

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minor hockey

from page 16

In the second, the Storm did allow any goals against them but saw two more unassisted goals by Stephen and Raposo. Alex Hendry scored us other point assisted by Mikayla Sisson. Bagshaw finished the second period with a goal assisted by Raposo.

Almaguin was able to get one more in the third but the Storm's Stephen added two more, making the final score 12-2 for the Storm! Next Saturday, Walkers Home Hardware Peewees travel to Gravenhurst to play South Muskoka at 11:15 a.m.

By Marita Bagshaw

Novice 2 LL

The Dewayen Simms Construction LL Novice 2 travelled to Bracebridge on Saturday, Feb. 16 to battle the South Muskoka Envotek.

It was an action-packed back and forth game. Envotek was first on the scoreboard and took a 2-0 lead early in the second. Mason Latanville tied the game up with two unassisted goals in the end of the second.

Latanville landed himself another hat trick early in the third, with an assist going to Brycen Harrison. Envotek tied it back up a minute later. With a minute and 30 seconds left in the game Harrison landed one in the net, with assists going to Latanville and Colten Simms.

Thirty seconds later McCartney Saunders landed himself an unassisted goal, helping the Storm take a 5-3 lead. With 21 seconds left of the game Envotek snuck another goal in. Final score 5-4 Storm.

The LL Novice 2 is back in action with

their final two games of the season.

Saturday Feb. 23 they travel to Huntsville to take on the Huntsville Near North at 9:50 a.m. and host the South Muskoka Envotek on Sunday, Feb. 24 in Minden at 12 p.m.

By Stephanie Harrison

Tykes

On Saturday, the Storm Tyke team had their Bernie Nicholls home tournament in Haliburton.

At 8:40 a.m. they played their first game against the Lakefield Chiefs. The Storm ended up with eight wicked goals led by Nixon Ecclestone and Rowan Johnson. Great defensive plays were made by Blake Hutchinson only allowing Lakefield four goals!

Storm took to the ice again at 11 a.m. against Manvers Mustangs. Storm led the scoring with Ecclestone scoring five goals and Matthew Mueller scoring at hat trick, Johnson scoring two more, Nash Wilson scoring one and Kelson Bagshaw scoring one.

More great defensive plays were evident by Cooper Gilbert allowing only six goals against. The Storm's last game of the day was against the Lindsay Muskies where goalie Jackson Robichaud earned his first shutout of the year!

The Storm's goals were scored by Brady Burke, Ecclestone, Mueller, Johnson totaling 21 goals in 40 minutes of play!

The Tyke team plays Saturday in Bracebridge at 9 a.m. against South Muskoka. Sunday they are in Port Carling for a fun day!

By Marita Bagshaw

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UPCOMING
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Events

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CFUW Guest Speaker: Cara Steele
When: Thursday, Feb. 21, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
Where: Abbey Gardens
Cara Steele will be speaking at the Canadian Federation of University Women Haliburton Highlands meeting. She will be highlighting the new developments at Abbey Gardens and will talk about future ideas including specifics about the Abbey Retreat Centre. Presentation begins at 1:40 and runs to 2:40 p.m. after which Heather will be offering a snowshoe hike for those interested. All women who are considering becoming a CFUW member are welcome to join us.
Cost: Free.

Travelog by Sean Pennylegion
When: Thursday Feb. 21, 1:30 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Highlands Museum
Haliburton resident Sean Pennylegion takes us on a tour of three Southeast Asian countries: Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. Hosted by the Haliburton County Historical Society.

Gord Kidd & Friends
When: Saturday Feb. 23/19, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion, Clubroom
Cost: \$5 cover charge for non-members. 50/50 draw at 6 p.m. (No dinner.)
Featuring Gord Kidd, Ian Pay, Brad Sales and Don Stiver on steel guitar

National Cupcake Day
When: Monday, Feb. 25, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Where: Minden Animal Hospital
Minden Animal Hospital is once again baking scrumptious cupcakes to benefit Muskoka OSPCA Bracebridge on National Cupcake Day. Pre-orders are welcome until Feb. 22. Don't have a sweet tooth? Donations can be made by visiting National Cupcake Day. Search for the team "MAH Fur Pets."

Food Handler Course
When: Tuesday, Feb. 26, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Where: Health Unit office (191 Highland St., Unit 301) in Haliburton.
This course teaches participants how to handle and prepare food safely. Upon successful completion, participants receive a certificate (valid for a period of five years) indicating they are registered as a certified food handler. Cost is \$40 per person. For more information and to confirm space availability, call the Health Unit at 1-866-888-4577.

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Snowmobilers delight in blustery week

community news
wilberforce
Hilda Clark
448-2018

As the snow piles higher it seems weather is the biggest item. Finally really great for snowmobile folks who are pleased to enjoy meals and get fuel here in the village. How delightful that there have been some sparkling sunny days to admire the landscape without a shovel in hand. The recent annual women's bonspiel at the Wilberforce Curling Club was as usual great fun and a big success. This Don Feveau Memorial Bonspiel got its name from an avid curler who got this tournament established several decades ago. Good to again have Don's daughter Donna in attendance with teams from the Newmarket area.

The trophy, which bears Don's name, was won this year by the Ottawa team of Ashley Desrosiers, Lauren Hunter, Beth Waugh, and Jennifer Mykolyshyn. Second place went to the McQuigge Wilberforce team. In third place was a team from Woodville. Along with other friends I was saddened to learn of the death of Faye Snider on Feb. 1 at the Manor in Bancroft. Faye and husband Victor had enjoyed retirement in Gooderham where Faye had grown up. Condolences are extended Vic and their family and friends. This month's soup luncheon at St. Margaret's Anglican Church will be next week on Tuesday, Feb. 26 during noon hour. Just costs a toonie donation with proceeds going to outreach in the community. The Wilberforce Book Club meets next week on Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m. at the library. New members welcome. It is always helpful and welcome when folks call with news of upcoming events.

Youth hub renovations fully underway

The tragic and untimely death of Peter Fearrey brought renovation and construction work at the Hali County Youth Hub to a virtual stand-still. "Peter was very committed to working on the youth hub, and making sure the youth voice was heard throughout the project," says Stephanie MacLaren, VP community programs at Haliburton Highlands Health Services. "Anyone who knew him will agree that Peter was a genuinely caring person who always went out of his way to help anyone who needed help. Peter's legacy will live on in all of the lives he touched along the way; he will always be a part of us and the Hali Youth Hub." Peter Fearrey worked for HHHS for many years, one of the youth hub's principal partner organizations, along with Point in Time. Renovations are now once again moving forward as two local construction contractors have agreed to collaborate to project manage the extensive renovations and re-



Renovations are moving forward at the Hali Youth Hub as two local construction contractors have agreed to project manage the efforts. /Photo submitted

construction of the lower level, complete the renovations on the main level, and coordinate the myriad of other trades needed to complete the project. "Local tradespeople, businesses and residents are being extremely generous with their time and contributions helping to make Youth Wellness Hubs Ontario's Hali County Youth Hub a reality. It's real evidence of how valued youth are as members of our community and how the community recognizes the future that they hold," says Marg Cox, executive director at Point in Time.

"For example, Kieran Gillooly, of Kegel Heating & Cooling, donated all his time and labour to the Youth Hub to install a new central heat pump system. That is an especially generous example of the support we've been receiving," she said.

A new and improved kitchen design has been completed addressing accessibility requirements and integrating public health conditions. Trevor Chaulk, of Chaulk Design Studio, worked hard to meet the changed requirements within budget constraints, and will help provide what'll be a great space for gathering and meal prep. The drawings have been submitted for approvals, and building permits are in the works.

Meetings have been taking place with an accessibility expert who is working on a new design that will bring everyone in through the front door (a new ramp will be built to code from the parking lot), and a wheelchair lift installed to access the main floor and lower level.

Drawings are being completed for a totally renovated lower level space to accommodate a family room, quiet space for homework, primary care, counselling and office spaces.

From a capital budget perspective, there is much to be done. As per the funding agreements, the majority of the three-year funding received from Youth Wellness Hubs Ontario and the Haliburton County Development Corporation will go towards operating and staffing expenses to provide a broad range of services and supports delivered in an integrated fashion. While \$85,000 has been earmarked in Year One for renovations and capital expenses, in addition to the \$150,000 estimated capital costs, there will be \$130,000 in additional accessibility costs.

"Fundraising efforts are continuing on multiple levels, including donations that can be made through the Gift Registry, at www.pointintime.ca/gift-registry," says Cox, "and although some programming is taking place at the Hub now, our aim is to be open and fully operational by the end of April."

-Submitted

NOTICE
(Applicant – GROSBERG)

IN THE MATTER OF THE MUNICIPAL ACT AND IN THE MATTER OF A PROPOSED BY-LAW OF THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF HIGHLANDS EAST TO CLOSE, STOP-UP AND CONVEY CERTAIN PORTIONS OF THE ORIGINAL SHORE ROAD ALLOWANCE ALONG THE SHORE OF TAMARACK LAKE, MORE PARTICULARLY HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED.

NOITCE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to the *Municipal Act*, S.O. 2001, and the Municipal Procedures, that the Township Council of The Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East proposes to consider and if deemed advisable, to pass at its regular meeting to be held at the Council Chambers, WILBERFORCE, Ontario on **March 12, 2019**, at 9:00 a.m., a By-Law to close, stop-up and convey to the adjacent land owners the following described lands:

Part of the Original Shore Road Allowance in front of Lot 26, Concession 3, Township of Glamorgan, Municipality of Highlands East, County of Haliburton, shown as Part 1 on the Preliminary Plan of Survey made by Greg Bishop Surveying and Consulting Ltd., dated October 7, 2016.

The Preliminary Plan of Survey as referred to above is available for inspection during regular office hours (9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday) at the Municipality of Highlands East offices, Wilberforce, Ontario.

The above described lands, by resolution, have been declared to be surplus.

AND TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that before passing the said By-Law at the meeting to be held at the time and place above mentioned, the Municipality of Highlands East shall then and there hear in person or by his or her counsel, Solicitor or Agent, any person who claims that his, her or their lands will be prejudicially affected by the said By-Law and who applies to be heard in person. The person who wishes to address Council should contact the Township office for delegation time.

DATED at the Municipality of Highlands East, Wilberforce, Ontario this 12th day of March, 2019.

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Staanworth non-Profit Housing Corporation provides affordable housing opportunities to eligible tenants. The Corporation operates two apartment buildings with a total of 54 one and two bedroom units and a townhouse complex with 20 units, all located in Minden, Ontario.

REPORTING TO: Board of Directors of Staانworth Non-Profit Housing Corporation

JOB SUMMARY

Property Manager will be totally accountable for all daily operations at assigned properties, ensuring compliance with all legislative and reporting requirements. Maintains high occupancy rates and maximum rental revenue. Ensures that maintenance, budgeting and bookkeeping are preformed in a timely and cost-effective manner. Oversees tenant relations to contribute to a safe and high quality living environment for all residents.

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SNPHC thanks all applicants, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Closing date for applications: April 1, 2019

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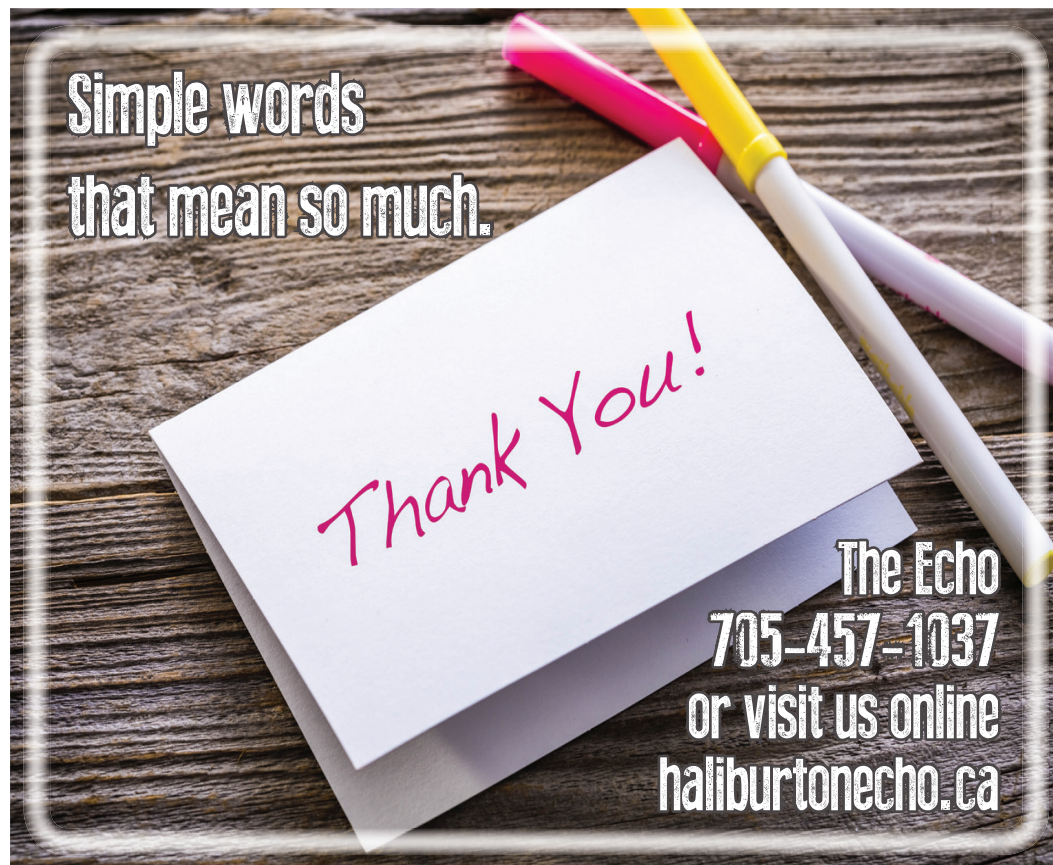
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640 IN MEMORIAM



McNeil Merreit Sr.
*In loving memory of
a dear dad who passed away
twenty-one years ago
Feb. 13, 1998*

"Gone from us,
but leaving memories
Death can never take away
Memories that will always linger
While upon this earth we stay."

**Always remembered,
missed each day and year.**
**Your daughter,
Wanda-Lee McNeil**



McNeil Merreit Sr.
*In loving memory of
my dear husband
who passed away
February 13, 1998*

*"They say there is a reason
They say that time will heal
But neither time nor reason
Will change the way I feel
For no one knows the heartache
That lies behind my smiles
No one knows how many times
I have broken down and cried
I want to tell you something
So there won't be any doubt
You're so wonderful to think of
But so very hard to live without"*

**Remembered by your wife
Mary McNeil**



In Loving Memory



With Heartfelt Sympathy

650 OBITUARIES



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Hannelore Wedmann (nee Hoffmann)
(Resident of Algonquin Highlands, Ontario)

We said goodbye to a great lady, Hannelore Wedmann on Tuesday morning, February 12, 2019 who was in her 84th year. She leaves large shoes to fill. Beloved wife of Guenter Wedmann for over 62 years. Loving mother Karen (Roger Pockett) and Michael (Lisa). Loving Omi to Garrett (Melissa), Nicole (Geoffrey), Luke and Carleigh and Great Omi to Emmitt. Dear sister of Klaus. Also lovingly remembered by her nieces and nephews. Hannelore was a business woman and friend to many. She enjoyed gardening, german cuisine, dancing and she loved being with people, most of all her family.

Remembrance Gathering & Reception

Friends are invited to call at **THE COMMUNITY ROOM** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209 on Friday evening, February 22, 2019 from 7 - 9 p.m. As expressions of sympathy, donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services would be appreciated by the family. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209.

www.communityfuneralhomes.com

**INSIDE
THIS
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THIS WEEK

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Haliburton in good position as
SSFC plans ahead... page 3

SPORTS

IT'S MAGIC
Teens host "gathering" of popular
new game... page 8

FEATURE

Happy 100th
Minden W.I. celebrates its
centennial... page 21



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1997

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90 cents (incl. GST)

Spending cuts not likely to be deep at board of education

by PETER DOWNS
Staff Reporter

Haliburton school trustees have to shave just .5 per cent from their draft budget to give the province what it wants — no tax hike for the board's final year in power.

As Queen's Park prepares to chop the number of school boards in half and take over education funding, Education Minister John Snobelen has very clearly directed boards not to bump up their levies.

The board has also been told unofficially to expect the same level of provincial funding this year as it received in 1996.

That means Haliburton trustees will have to trim the

board's preliminary budget of \$17.32-million by about \$88,000, or half a per cent, to bring it down to last year's spending level of \$17.23-million.

"Basically, we're on a holding pattern right now," said the board's business administrator, Jim Bradley.

Unlike last year, parents and students shouldn't see any dramatic changes because of board cost-cutting measures for the year ahead.

The preliminary budget indicates estimated spending based on existing demands and includes funding requests from each school for capital expenditures and maintenance.

Trustees will likely look to those funding requests to find the small savings they need to come up with a zero increase in their final budget.

But until it gets official word from the province that its transfer payments will be held at the same level, the board doesn't plan on making any cuts.

"We've only been told these things. We haven't received anything in writing. So we're going sit and wait right now until we see what our grant structure is and go from there," Bradley said.

Since this is the last time trustees will have control over how money is spent on education in Haliburton County, this is "probably our most important budget," said chairwoman Cheryl Murdoch.

Before the board is dismantled, she said it's important that trustees do all they can with the resources they have to put the school system in the best position possible before it is merged with the boards of Muskoka and Victoria County.

But Dysart trustee Len Salvatori noted the board has little room to make any significant changes.

"This year we can't really commit to anything. We can't go above zero (per cent expenditure increase)," he said. "...

See PROVINCE page 4

The C word:

**County council
reacts angrily to
Snowdon's threat
to call in the
Commissioner**

by MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

Snowdon Reeve George Simmons was strongly chastized by fellow county councillors for suggesting that his municipality may call in a provincial commissioner to overrule the local political structure.

"It's too premature to talk about bringing anyone in," said Warden Murray Fearrey. The county and its 10 municipalities have started a process of re-organizing themselves from within, and Simmons hasn't given this process a chance to succeed, he said.

See COUNTY page 6

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HOLD ON: There were screams and laughter as family enjoyed all the winter fun at Camp Wanakita on Sunday. Tobogganing down Cardiac Hill was as popular as ever.

Barber report gets good marks from county council

by MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

County councillors gave their unanimous approval to adopt David Barber's draft report on spending efficiencies.

Municipal councils still have two weeks to comment on the report before it's accepted in its final form, but the general reaction at Wednesday's county council meeting was positive. There are questions about some of those figures, but consultant David Barber will resolve many of the problems in his final report due after the March 3 deadline for comments.

Warden Murray Fearrey was the most outspoken defender of the report, which sets benchmarks for per household spend-

ing on various municipal services in the county.

"This is an action plan (and I want county council) to accept it in principle and seriously look at making it work," he said in what was at times an angry response to criticism of the report. "The numbers may never be perfect but they indicate trends to work towards. Let's put personalities aside and get this resolved."

Fearrey also made a dig at municipal employees, primarily roads superintendents, who have disagreed with some of Barber's figures and calculations. "I don't think staff has the will (to implement) this, but they must work with the councils" and councils must take a leadership role.

The Barber report compares spending levels in each municipi-

pality and calculates a per household cost of services. Barber sets a spending level slightly higher than the lowest cost for each service as benchmarks for municipalities to strive towards.

In the current edition of Municipal World magazine, there's a three-page article on amalgamation. The author says amalgamation has never saved money and had favourable comments about using benchmarks.

Addressing council on Wednesday, Barber said many other counties have expressed interest in his study and asked for copies of the report, leading Cardiff Deputy-revee Doug Holman to joke that if Barber gets more business because of

See COUNTY page 10

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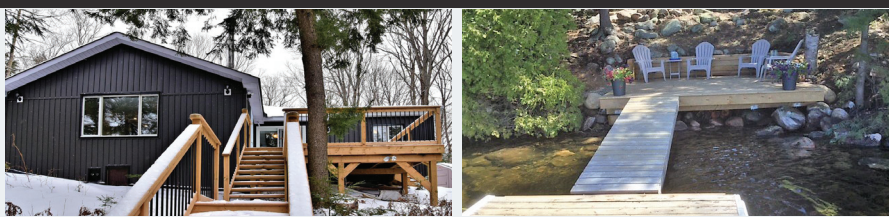
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